

**DNR Elk Advisory Committee  
Conference Call – 30 April, 2015**

Attendees:

Kevin Wallenfang-WIDNR	Lindsey Long-WIDNR	Laine Stowell-WIDNR
Kurt Haas-WIDNR	Rich Kirchmeyer	Ralph Fritsch-Wildlife
Jon Schweitzer-Jackson County	Kris Johansen-WIDNR	Federation
Dan Eklund-USFS	Scott Roepke-WIDNR	Notes by Christine Priest-
Dan Storm-WIDNR	Karen Sexton -Ho-Chunk Nation	WIDNR
Al Jacobson-Jackson County	Kurt Flack-RMEF	
Wildlife Fund	Ken Jonas-WIDNR	

I. Planning for 2016 Kentucky elk capture and quarantine:

The main objective of the call was to determine where the 2016 allotment of Kentucky elk would be quarantined and released in Wisconsin. Participants were provided with a document before the meeting that listed several potential options for future years with an emphasis on 2016.

The participants discussed positive and negative aspects of the numerous options. Discussion included cost, logistics, staff requirements, funding sources, demands on the Wildlife Health Team, risk to animals, involvement by the US Forest Service and their timeline for potential site selection, review, and financing.

**Recommendation: All Kentucky elk captured in 2016 will be quarantined in the current Jackson County facility and released from the same site as was done in 2015. This will be the most cost efficient option, providing opportunities to complete the Jackson County effort, is logistically easier than other options, all the recycling of pen materials, and offer additional time to work with USFS on options in CLER.**

**Recommendation: The committee further agrees that the focus of 2017 must be on the CLER regardless of the 2016 outcome in Jackson County. Final recommendations as to exactly where animals are quarantined in CLER will be determined based on suitable sites and other considerations.**

II. Health Update:

WIDNR Wildlife Veterinarian Lindsey Long gave an update on the elk that are being held in quarantine at the Jackson County Forest facility. We had a short period of losses that appear to have been caused by a tick-borne disease. Final testing is pending. A public update will be released soon and the committee was asked to refrain from public comment until results are available.

III. 2014-15 Assisted Dispersal Update:

WIDNR Sawyer County Elk Biologist Laine Stowell gave an update regarding the 2014-15 assisted dispersal effort. The elk were released on April 20, and to date all are remaining in the general area (within a few miles) of the pen site and within the expanded range.